

# United States Marshals Service



## FACT SHEET Investigative Services

The U.S. Marshals Service is the federal government's lead agency for conducting and investigating cases that involve escaped federal prisoners; probation, parole, and bond default violators; and fugitives from warrants generated during drug investigations.

### **"15 Most Wanted"**

The Marshals Service has maintained its own "15 Most Wanted" fugitives list since 1983. This high-profile campaign describes some of America's most dangerous career criminals and generates hundreds of leads. Out of the 134 individuals who have appeared on the "15 Most Wanted" lists, 119 were captured.

Targeting even larger quantities of fugitives is the goal of the Department of Justice's new strategy for cooperative task force teams. Criminals sought by all law enforcement jurisdictions are apprehended by teams in which Deputy Marshals and investigators work as equal partners alongside agents from a host of federal, state and local agencies.

### **Domestic Investigations**

Investigations carried out by the men and women of the Marshals Service result in the annual apprehension of about 30,000 fugitive felons.



Over the last five years, Marshals Service personnel apprehended more than 100,000 fugitives.

Three-quarters of all fugitive felon arrests are made by the Marshals Service. In fact, the agency executes more fugitive arrest warrants than all other federal law enforcement agencies combined.

Two Marshals Service investigators work on the new Missing and Exploited Children Task Force — operated under the aegis of the FBI. This task force aims to resolve longstanding cases of missing children and to help arrest fugitives sought by the courts for child-related crimes.

For decades, federal law enforcement officials have relied on the detailed knowledge of local

authorities to help arrest federal fugitives. Task force cooperation is now reciprocal. Federal intelligence resources and personnel now assist city, county and state police with their fugitive cases.

This strategy first appeared as a series of short-term, experimental operations. Thousands of fugitives were arrested during Operations Sunrise, Gunsmoke I and II, Trident and others. These successes led to permanent task forces in over 150 communities. In Houston and San Diego, for example, task forces apprehend more than 1,500 fugitives annually.

A Marshals Service representative also helps monitor domestic, drug-related crimes at the National Drug Intelligence Center in Johnstown, Pa.

### **International Investigations**

On the international front, the Marshals Service has become the primary, American agency responsible for returning foreign fugitives to their respective countries. Deputy Marshals also apprehend fugitives here who are wanted abroad.

The Marshals Service has representatives at Interpol Headquarters in France and the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) — a multi-agency, intelligence-sharing operation.

### **Electronic Surveillance Unit**

The Electronic Surveillance Unit provides support such as telephone monitoring, electronic tracking and covert, audio-video recording. The ESU investigators also help prepare court orders,

analyze electronically-gathered information and review requests for surveillance equipment and training.

### **Analytical Support Unit**

The Analytical Support Unit is a team of analysts which provides tactical and strategic expertise to Marshals Service district offices. The unit researches and reports judicial threats during trials and various other protective missions. It researches information during fugitive investigations and also oversees the Warrant Information Network — the agency's central law enforcement computer system.

### **Special Programs Unit**

The Special Programs Unit oversees the service of process within the Marshals Service.

The unit also conducts financial investigations in support of cases involving debts owed to the federal government. In Fiscal Year 1996, investigators processed 13 debt cases worth \$57 million and has also located more than \$97 million in assets.

The unit oversees investigations of threats and inappropriate communications made to the federal judiciary. Investigators aggressively pursue threateners to assess their legitimate potential for harm. These investigations are projected to exceed 500 in 1997.

White collar and finance-related crimes are tracked by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, which has a Marshals Service investigator assigned full time.

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